



# Join Us In Measuring Progress

A Monthly  
Assessment Newsletter  
October 2003

## Assessment for Learning

### The Online Assessment Calendar and Power- Point Are Updated

• **Assessment Calendar**

<http://www.opi.state.mt.us/PDF/Assessment/calendar.pdf>

• **Assessment PowerPoint**

<http://www.opi.state.mt.us/PDF/Assessment/03AssessOverview.pdf>



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### • Information on Spring Testing •

#### Norm-Referenced Test Update (The Iowa Tests—Riverside Publishing Company)

- ✓ Multiple choice
- ✓ Timed
- ✓ Calculator use by IEP only
- ✓ Continuation of alternate assessment, accommodations, and policies from 2002
- ✓ Important dates:
  - Test Administration Training—2<sup>nd</sup> week in February 2004
  - Test window—March 8 - March 26, 2004

#### Criterion-Referenced Test Update (Measured Progress)

- ✓ Multiple choice and constructed response
- ✓ Untimed test—guidelines will be included in the administration manuals
- ✓ Calculator use on portions of the test for all students
- ✓ Test items will be released with the results
- ✓ Will include new alternate assessment, accommodations, and policies for both
- ✓ Important dates:
  - Alternate assessment beta testing—November 12 - 24, 2003
  - *Preparing for the CRT* Videoconference—November 21, 2003
  - Test Administration Training—2<sup>nd</sup> week in February 2004
  - Test Window—March 29 - April 16, 2004

## FACTS about Students with Limited English Proficiency (LEP)

1. Guidelines for districts to use in identifying students with limited English proficiency are online— <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/PDF/Bilingual/LEPIDentification.pdf>. The following is excerpted from those online guidelines.
  - ✓ Montana observes the following definition of limited English proficiency (LEP):
    - Students whose difficulties in speaking, reading, writing, or understanding the English language are caused by the impact of another language; and
    - Difficulties may affect the ability to achieve academic success in classrooms and/or meet the state's proficient level of achievement on state assessments.
  - ✓ Districts should have an LEP identification process that includes appropriate measures at varying grade levels. A district process could include:
    - Home language survey;
    - English language proficiency test which should include oral comprehension, speaking, reading;
    - Writing assessment;
    - Observation scale;
    - Running record;
    - Developmental reading assessment;
    - Checklist of reading proficiency within a district reading program;
    - Reading score on the Iowa Tests; and/or
    - Cloze Test.
2. This is the second year that the LEP count is included in the Annual Data Collection (ADC). In the past, districts completed a paper/pencil survey for LEP count and mailed it to the Office of Public Instruction. The LEP count in the ADC replaces the survey.
3. The Office of Public Instruction is part of the Mountain States Consortium which is developing an English proficiency test as required by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.
  - ✓ The test is for students who have already been identified by districts as students with limited English proficiency.
  - ✓ It will measure growth in English skills needed for success in content areas.
  - ✓ Timeline for test development
 

• March/April 2004	Pilot
• Fall 2004	Field Test
4. For more information, please contact Lynn Hinch, the Bilingual Specialist at the Office of Public Instruction, [lhinch@state.mt.us](mailto:lhinch@state.mt.us) or (406) 444-3482.

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## MontCAS, Phase 2—The Criterion-Referenced Test

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### Alternate Assessment for the Criterion-Referenced Test

An alternate assessment for the criterion-referenced test is being developed by Measured Progress, the Office of Public Instruction, and Montana educators. Gail McGregor of the University of Montana Rural Institute for Disabilities is providing guidance and expertise.

During the summer 2003, an advisory committee and item development teams met to formulate

plans. In November, the alternate assessment will be beta tested by special education teachers throughout the state. In addition, the advisory committee and members of the development teams will review the alternate.

The alternate assessment will be ready for the first administration of the criterion-referenced test in grades 4, 8, and 10 in March and April 2004.

Information on the accommodations and the alternate will be ready in December 2003.

## MontCAS, Phase 2 (cont.)

### Preparing for the Criterion-Referenced Test

On Friday, November 21, 2003, from noon until 3:00 p.m., the Office of Public Instruction, Northwest Regional Educational Labs, and Montana educators will present a videoconference to help schools prepare for the criterion-referenced test.

**The conference will be videotaped, and tapes will be available for checkout from the OPI Resource Center in December 2003.**

Below are the sites and details.

City	Site	Address and Contact Number	Parking	Seating Capacity
Billings	MSU—Billings College of Education & Human Services, Room 159	1500 No. 30th St. 657-1685	For an advance temporary parking permit, contact security, (406) 657-2147. Otherwise, stop at the security office the day of the conference in the parking garage on Poly.	45
Bozeman	MSU, EPS Building, Burns Center, Room 126	So. 7th and Grant 994-6553	Pay lot across the street at the corner of South 7th and Grant	30
Butte	Montana Tech, EICB, Room 231	1300 West Park St. 496-4242	Visitor and decal parking are available near the site. If you can't find a visitor spot, park in a decal one. If you get a ticket, call the site coordinator, Cookie Sheehan, (406) 496-4242.	36
Dillon	UM—Western, Library, Montana Room, 2nd Floor	710 South Atlantic 683-7542	Free parking on site	35
Glendive	Glendive Medical Center	202 Prospect Dr. 345-3304	Free parking on site	50
Glasgow	Frances Mahon Deaconess Hospital	621 3rd Street So. 228-4351	Free parking on site	30
Great Falls	MSU—Great Falls Room B-103	2100 16th Ave. S. 771-4303	Free parking on site 265-3702	24
Havre	MSU—Northern Hagener Science Center, Room 202	300 11th Street W.	Free parking at site except when marked as reserved.	18
Helena	Dept. of Public Health & Human Services, Lower Level Auditorium	111 Sanders Street 444-1832	Free parking at site in lot behind building.	100
Kalispell	Flathead Comm. College, Learning Resource Center, Room 120	777 Grandview Drive 756-3828	Free parking on site	50

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## ASSESSMENT FOR LEARNING

City	Site	Address and Contact Number	Parking	Seating Capacity
Missoula	University of Montana, Gallagher Building, Room 104	Corner of Arthur and Eddy	Limited space at the pay lot in front of the Gallagher Bldg. on the side facing Arthur. Parking permits are available at UM through the campus security and can be arranged in advance. The contact person is Shelley Harshbarger, (406) 243-6131 by telephone and the fax number is (406) 243-4298.	30
Pablo	Salish Kootenai Tribal College, Building #50, the Distance Education Building	Highway 93, 275-4844 or 275-4842	Free parking on site	20
Sidney	Sidney Health Center	216 14th Ave. SW, 488-2168	Free parking on site	40

Online Registration will open on November 10—<http://www.opi.state.mt.us/regforms/CRT/>. Some sites have limited seating; therefore, it is necessary to register in advance.

Materials for the conference, including sample items and rubrics, will be online by November 10—<http://www.opi.state.mt.us/assessment/crt.html#mp>.

If you are unable to register online, please contact Raelen Williard at the OPI Resource Center, [rwilliard@state.mt.us](mailto:rwilliard@state.mt.us) or (406) 444-2082.

### Montana CRT Sample Items and Rubrics

 Will be online by November 10—<http://www.opi.state.mt.us/assessment/crt.html#mp>. These materials will be used and needed at the November 21 videoconference.

### Videotapes of Measured Progress Teacher Workshops

The *Teacher as Assessor* and *Examining Student Work*, two workshops presented by the criterion-referenced test contractor, Measured Progress, will be available on videotape from the Office of Public Instruction Resource Center. These tapes are copyrighted and cannot be copied. Please look at your professional development needs and schedule a time to request and use a tape. Videotapes may be checked out for 10 days including mailing time. Please contact Raelen Williard, [rwilliard@state.mt.us](mailto:rwilliard@state.mt.us) or (406) 444-2082 to make arrangements.

**For further information, contact:**

**Judy Snow**

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